

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05
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/092 W

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R 121440Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4555

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0878

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BU, LY
SUBJECT: BULGARIANS IN LIBYA

REF: A) TRIPOLI 0145; B) SOFIA 0149

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES REF A, PROVIDING ESTIMATE OF 4 TO 6,000 BULGARIAN TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS IN LIBYA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY REAFFIRMATION OR REVISION OF THAT ESTIMATE, GIVEN SEVERAL MORE RECENT AND DISPARATE ESTIMATES.

2. IN MARCH 1978, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MINCHEV RESPONDED TO THE QUERY OF A WESTERN AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT SAYING THAT THERE WERE "ABOUT 3,000" BULGARIANS WORKING IN LIBYA. MEANWHILE, THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO HAD EARLIER TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR AND SEVERAL OTHERS (SEE REF B) THAT THERE WERE 30,000 BULGARIANS IN LIBYA HAS MORE RECENTLY TOLD TWO OTHER WESTERN AMBASSADORS THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE, AND THAT THE FIGURE IS NOW 35,000. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, WITHOUT INDICATING WHETHER THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI WAS THE SOURCE, HAS ESTIMATED "SEVERAL THOUSAND". THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS REPORTED AN ESTIMATE OF 20,000. FINALLY, THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAS SAID THAT THE ALGERIAN ESTIMATE IS 17
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TO 18,000 BULGARIANS, AND THOUGHT THAT FIGURE MIGHT NOT INCLUDE DEPENDENTS.

3. ANY FURTHER COMMENTS THAT EMBASSY TRIPOLI OR THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE WOULD BE OF INTEREST.
GARTHOFF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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